

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. B-4411

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 317 West Franklin Street

and/or common J.V.C. Hi-Fi

**2. Location**

street & number 317 W. Franklin Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William F. and Sandra Conrad

street & number 317 West Franklin Street

city, town Baltimore telephone no.:

state and zip code MD 21202

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse SEB346 liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 460 folio

city, town Baltimore state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4411

**Condition**

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1850 commercial building faces north on W. Mulberry Street and abuts two partywall structures. The brick building is three stories high and three bays wide with a shed roof. The brick has been sandblasted and the trim is painted green. The street frontage is 20' and the depth is 80'.

The first story has been altered. Fluted pilasters frame the three bays. The bottoms of the pilasters are faced with black vitrolite panels. The first bay contains a slightly recessed door that opens on to a stair hall. The door is a modern solid panel door with a transom and dentil course transom bar. The second bay has a display window set over a green striated vitrolite glass panelled foundation wall. The window consists of two large plates of glass joined by metal mutins. A signboard runs across where the transom would have been; the dentilled transom bar remains. The third bay has a slightly recessed door that opens into the first-story shop. The door is a glazed panel set in wood surrounds. The transom is now blocked, but the dentilled transom bar remains. A projecting cornice of cast iron fillet, ogee, bead and back band is supported by two scrolled brackets. An angled sign board runs below the cornice.

The second and third stories have three 1/1 sash windows with brick splayed jack arches and stone sills. A plastic sign partially obscures the second story. Iron tie rods anchor the wall between the stories.

The cornice has a projecting profile of fillet, ogee, three beads, back band, quarter round, and dentil course running above a simply frieze with molding strips at the bottom.

The interior originally has a mosaic tile floor that is now carpeted. The pressed tin ceiling is now covered with acoustic tiles. The owner reports that there are fireplaces in the upstairs rooms.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

B-4411

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building an example of a circa 1860 combination commercial-residential building. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories could have been used as offices or as residential quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."<sup>1</sup> In this case the commercial requirements could be met by modifying the first story. The stringcourse-cornice across the first story was a typical element of the commercial storefront. Below this the transoms and plate glass display windows express the commercial purpose of the space. The separate entrances for the lower and upper stories reiterates the segregation of tenants and activities in the building. The building type attests to the mixed commercial and residential character of the neighborhood at the mid-century mark. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."<sup>2</sup> Rather than tearing down this building as commercial usage took precedent, the owner was able to convert the building.

The vitrolite glass embellishments on the foundation wall are circa 1930s improvements, but otherwise the facade is relatively unaltered from its late nineteenth-century state.

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24,29.

<sup>2</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24,29.



**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

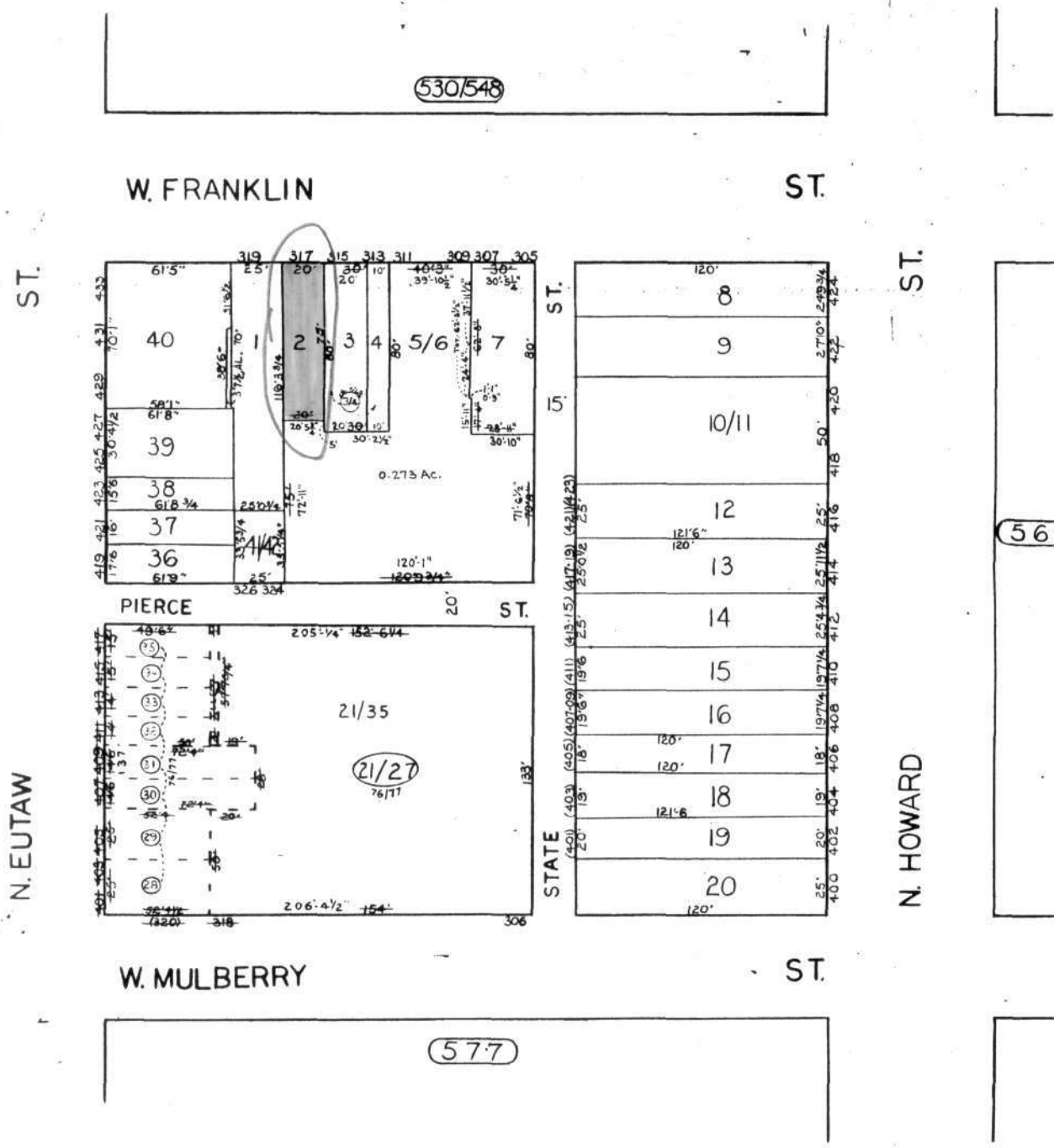
Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Residential/Commercial

Known Design Source:  
None

REVISIONS

Lot 3/4 DIV PER DEED C.S.H. 9830  
LOT 21/35 PER O.O.; C.S.H. 77-044  
Lots 5/6 & 7 Cor. Per Deeds; C.S.H. 81-254.



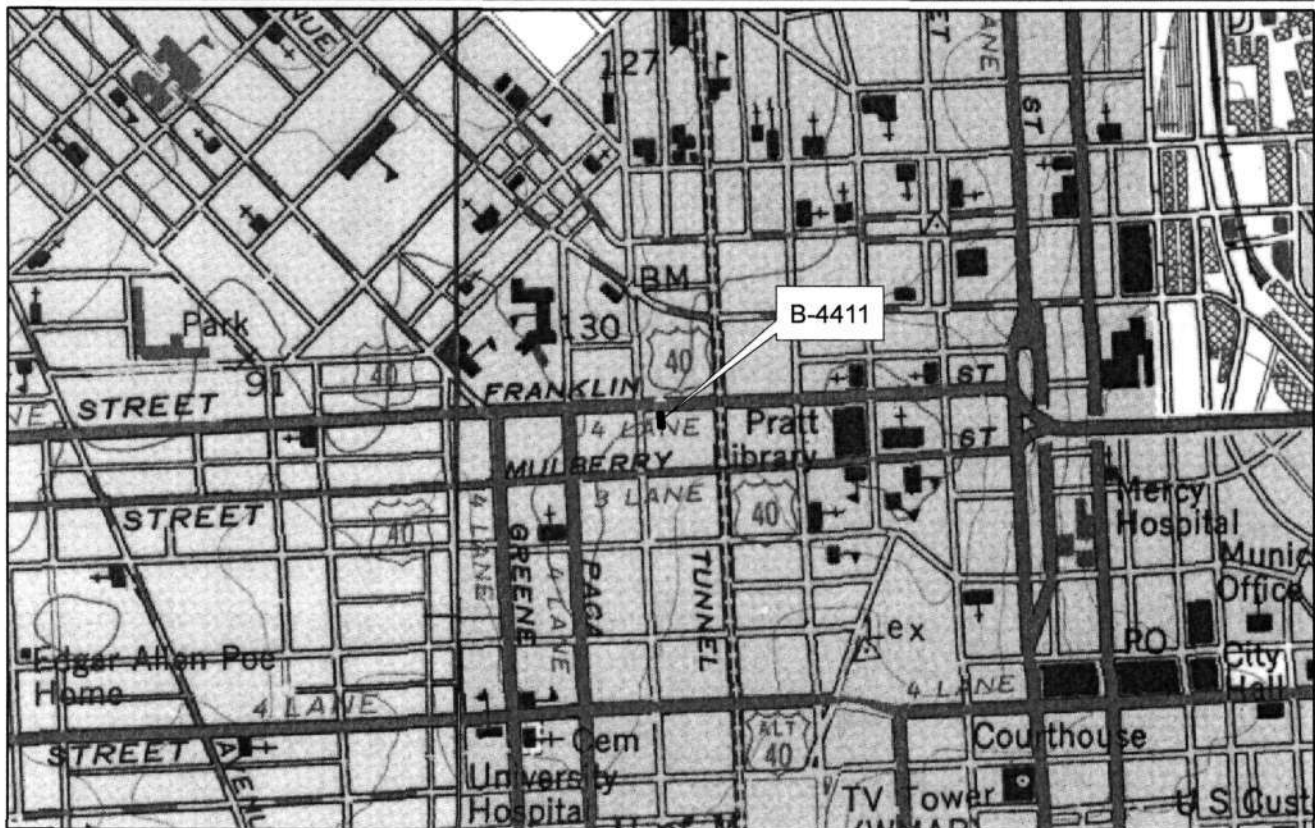
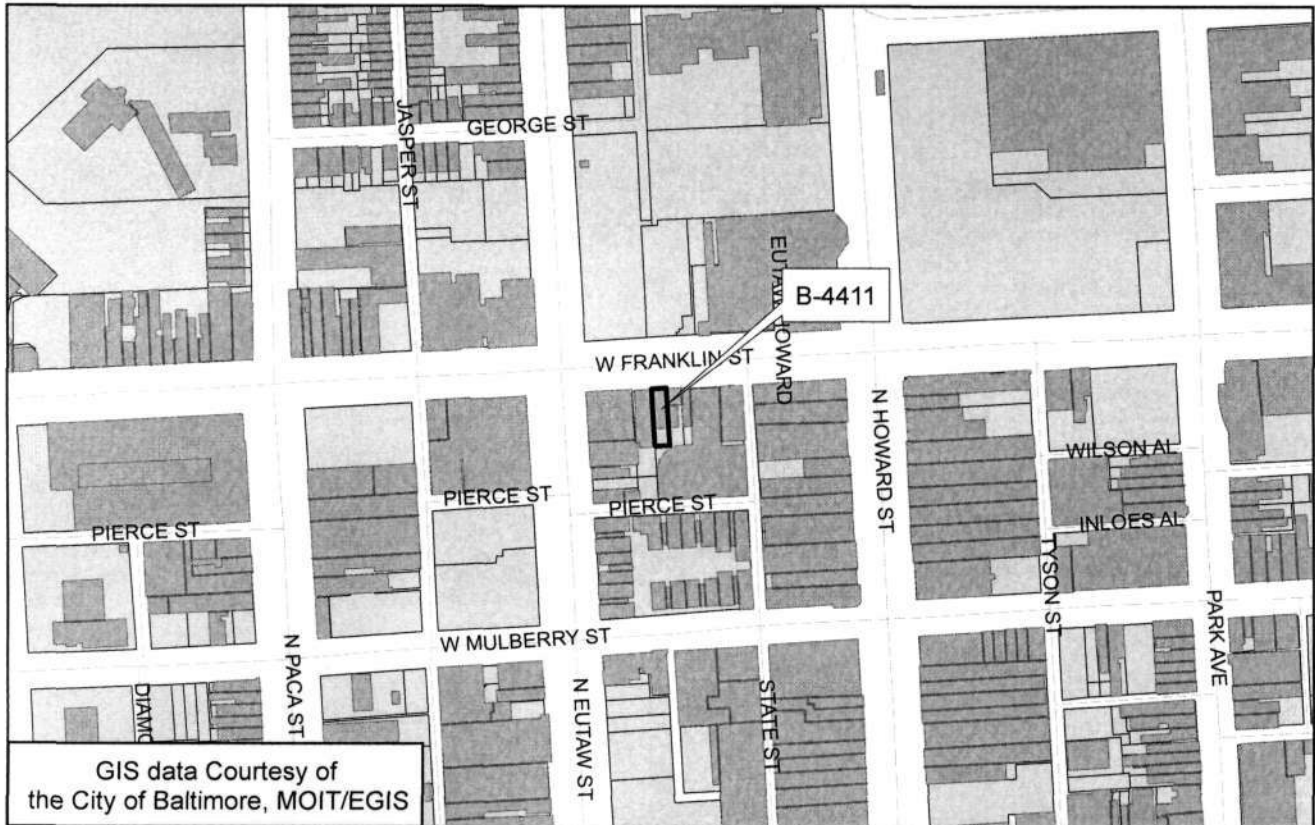
CEDED BY P.W.  
TERED BY P.W.  
CKED BY

NOTICE  
THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER  
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER  
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
WARD 4 SECTION 2  
BLOCK 562  
SCALE 1"=50' DATE NOV. 1966



B-4411  
J.V.C. Hi-Fi  
317 W. Franklin Street  
Block 0562 Lot 002  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad







B-4411

317 W. Franklin St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, north elevation

1/1